

## **Editorial Notes**

The present number of Journal of Business and Technology (Dhaka), Volume IX, Issue 02 (July – December 2014) consists of five articles. The first article is on Bangladesh ceramic industry; the authors make some interesting financial analysis based on performance indicators such as net profit margin, return on assets, return on equity, of some leading companies of the country. The article suggests a set of policy-directions on the basis of empirical analysis. The second article is on the relationship between foreign exchange rate and trade balance in the context of Bangladesh economy. The authors employ an econometric model to estimate the relationship utilizing the monthly data for the period July, 1981 to December 2010. The article concludes that the speed of adjustment coefficient of trade balance equation corrects roughly 13 percent of any deviation from the long-run path within a month with a unidirectional exchange rate-to-trade balance causality. The correction process is slow and statistically insignificant. The article on women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh tries to bring out the major determining factors explaining their development. The empirical study shows that personal skills such as hard work, perseverance, management and marketing techniques and support from the family help positively while lack of capital, gender discrimination, non-availability of relevant training program work as obstacles. The article on SAFTA (South Asian Free Trade Agreement) which became effective on January 06, 2004, shows that the agreement did not make expected progress. Various institutional deficiencies and infrastructural inadequacies (e.g., roads, rail-links, air-connections), lack of trusts (mainly between two major countries of India and Pakistan) have been identified as factors obstructing the realization of SAFTA-related objectives. The study on Indian life insurance sector is an interesting one. It shows from 1991 onward, the sector has grown at an exceedingly high rate. The article enumerates the challenges faced by the sector and the ways to overcome the challenges.

We are grateful to the Northern University Bangladesh (NUB) authorities for their financial, administrative and moral support in sustaining this journal. Our reviewers have been prompt in sending their detailed comments on the articles. Mofedul Islam Apu has done a wonderful job of formatting the articles and preparing them for the printer. For any remaining error, the executive editor bears the responsibility.

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**Executive Editor**